Consumer Protection Act, 1986. In addition, the Central Government has accorded approval for setting up District Forums in Gujarat, Goa, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep. State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been repeatedly urged to expedite actions for making redressal machinery functional under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Some States which have expressed financial difficulties in this regard have been advisesd to provide funds for setting up the redressal machinery under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 from their annual plan allocations through inter-sectoral savings/ adjustments etc.

Production of Agricultural Commodities

245. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of agricultural commodities viz. wheat, rice etc., during the current year; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to check the fall in prices of agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Firm estimates of production of various kharif crops in the current year including rice are not yet available from the States. Sowing of wheat and other rabi crops is still in progress. As such, it is too early to indicate the estimated production of these crops. However, rainfall and weather conditions have been generally favourable and targetted production of these crops is likely to be achieved.

(b) The Government has already announced the procurement/support prices for 1988-89 crores, It is the policy of the Government to purchase all wheat and paddy of prescribed specifications offered for sale at the support price. Adequate arrangements have been made for undertaking market support operations by the public agencies like Food Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, etc. to ensure that the prices do not fall below the support level.

Report of National Commission on Housing

246. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Housing has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are Government's views on the recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No such Commission was set up by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Schemes for Unemployed Persons

247. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed in the country, especially among the educated classes and those in rural areas;

(b) whether any new job-oriented schemes are being drawn up;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the unemployment problem is proposed to be tackled in the current and the next Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (d) Information about the total number of unemployed in the country and about the educated unemployed is given in the Seventh Plan document. The policies and Programmes/Schemes

on employment generation are given in Chapter-3 of Vol. I and Chapter-5 of Vol. II of the Seventh Five Year Plan document. The next Plan is in thinking stage.

National Channel of AIR

248. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTNG be peased to state:

(a) what are the timings of the programmes broadcast on the recently introduced National Channel of All India Radio;

(b) whether some of these programmes are broadcast after midnight;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to alter the timings of the above programmes suitably and fix them during day time or evenings or late evenings only for the benefit of listeners all over the country;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether Government propose to improve the audiobility of the programmes broadcast over the National Channel?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The National Channel of All India Radio at present broadcasts programmes from 1900 hrs. to 0230 hrs.

(c) The Medium Wave transmitters at various Stations of All India Radio are used mainly for broadcasting in the regioanl languages. In the absence of alternate channel some of the centrally originated programmes are relayed for short durations by the Regional Stations and these encroach into the regional service at peak listening hours. A separate National Channel for broadcast exclusively of National programmes was therefore set-up to cover major portion of the country at night. The availability of sky wave at night also increases its coverage.

(d) and (e) No, Sir, in view of the position explained at (c) above.

(f) The National Channel of All India Radio covers 53 per cent population of the country at present. There is no proposal during the 7th Plan to improve the audiobility of the programmes of National Channel and to reach the un-serviced areas of the country.

Development of Food processing Industries

249. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes drawn up by Government for the development of food processing industries; and

(b) the funds earmarked for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) and (b) The following Plan Schemes are aimed at the development of food processing industries:

Name of the Schemes	Budget Estimates for 88-89
(1) Investment in Slaughter House Corporation	Rs. 20 lakhs
(2) Improvement of existing abottoirs and meat units. . .	Rs. 40 lakhs
(3) Assistance to State-Governments/Cooperatives for development of fruit and vegetable processing. . .	Rs. 40 lakhs
(4) Fisheries Survey of India.	Rs. 490 lakhs
(5) Trawler Development Fund. . . .	Rs. 2300 lakhs
(6) Modernisation of Rice Milling. . . .	Rs. 70 lakhs